

## HST 730—U.S. Research Seminar—The Ozarks

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Online

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### Course Purpose and Objectives

HST 730 explores the history and historiography of the Ozarks.

Objectives:

- an understanding of the broad outlines of Ozarks historiography;
- an ability to contextualize a research topic against the backdrop of Ozarks history and historiography;
- completion of a 24- to 26-page research paper using both primary and secondary sources;
- completion of a research paper that can be revised into publishable quality.

### Office Hours

Mondays 1:00-4:00 in person and by appointment via telephone or Zoom

I do not hold virtual, real-time office hours. Of course, as with most online classes, any questions you have re: assignments or readings should be addressed to me via email. I check my university email account on a regular basis throughout the day and at least a couple of times over the weekend. I will respond to your questions/concerns as quickly as possible.

*Remember that students are required to wear masks in academic buildings during any visit to campus.*

Covid-19 contingency: Because this course is a fully online course, it will continue to operate normally in the event of a temporary hiatus of in-person instruction.

### University Policy Statements

All MSU policy statements, including up-to-date COVID-19 policies, can be found at <https://www.missouristate.edu/provost/bbsyllabus.htm>, as well as on the “University Policies” link on Blackboard.

### THE COURSE

HST 730 is a research seminar, which means the primary objective is to complete a 24- to 26-page research paper based on original research on a topic that falls under the umbrella of Ozarks history. You will be reading and studying both secondary sources related to your topic (which may be specifically about the Ozarks or about a similar issue in another region) and primary sources (which may include a broad range of materials,

from newspapers to archival manuscript collections and from government documents – published or unpublished – to census records and statistics.) And there are many more varieties of primary sources.

You will submit your paper in first draft form on or before April 19 – **on April 12 if you are planning to graduate in May 2022.** (The Graduate College’s deadline for approving seminar papers for graduating M.A. students is April 25, thus the earlier due dates for prospective graduating students.) This first draft should not contain your name anywhere in the paper. I will then email your anonymous paper to a fellow member of the course for a peer-review critique. Using recommendations from that anonymous reviewer and my comments, you will revise your paper and submit the final version on or before May 3 – **on April 21 if you are planning to graduate in May 2022. (\*\*See the Course Introduction in the Information tab on Blackboard for more in-depth information.)**

### Required Books

There are no required books for this course. All required readings will be provided via pdf or Word file on Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS SCHEDULE: All assignments will be submitted through the Assignments Tab in Blackboard. Look for the appropriate assignment in the list. Specific instructions for each assignment are available in the Assignments Tab.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 20	Readings Review #1 – 7 pts
January 27	Readings Review #2 – 7 pts
February 1	Submission of Topic Choice
February 15	Submission of Thesis Statement and Bibliography
March 1	Submission of Outline and Revised Thesis Statement
March 22	Posting of Research Journal Entry #1 on Discussion Board (see instructions in Discussion Board on Blackboard) – 4 pts
April 5	Posting of Research Journal Entry #2 on Discussion Board (see instructions in Discussion Board on Blackboard) – 4 pts
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Submission of First Draft of Paper (for students graduating in May 2022)</b>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Submission of Peer-review Critique (for students graduating in</b>

**May 2022; see instructions in Assignments tab of Blackboard)**

- April 19                      Submission of First Draft of Paper (for all other students)
- April 21                      Submission of Final Paper (for students graduating in May 2022)**
- April 26                      Submission of Peer-review Critique (for all other students; see instructions in Assignments tab of Blackboard) – 8 pts
- May 3                          Submission of Final Paper (for all other students) – 170 pts

**No final exam.**

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Any assignment not turned in on time will automatically receive a 10% late penalty. You will receive an additional 5% late penalty for each additional day that the assignment is not turned in for up to a week. Any assignment not turned in within one week of the due date will automatically receive a grade of zero.

\*Because there is no grade associated with submission of the first draft of the paper, any late penalty on this assignment will be assessed to your final paper grade. In other words, if you turn your first draft in a day after the due date, your eventual final paper grade will be assessed a 10% late penalty, even if the final paper is turned in on time. It is essential that your first draft be turned in on time, since your peer-reviewer has only one week to read and critique it. Similarly, late submissions of topic choice, thesis statement, and outline will be deducted from Research Journal postings grades.

### DISCUSSION FORUMS

This course utilizes discussion forums on Blackboard in two ways: research updates and general course discussion. On March 22 and April 5, you will post brief updates on your research. To post these updates, click on the Discussion tab in the red field in the upper left-hand corner of the course's Blackboard page; inside the tab you will find a list of discussion forums. Enter the pertinent forum and click on the Create Thread tab at the top. You are welcomed and encouraged to read other students' research updates and to provide helpful comments.

In the discussion forums tab you will also find a forum entitled "General Course Discussion." The purpose of "General Course Discussion" is to provide a forum for course-related questions or concerns that arise during the semester, especially those that you feel would be relevant to fellow students. You may, for instance, come across research materials related to a fellow student's topic and post them on the forum to let her/him know about it. You may be having trouble coming up with the "why does it matter" part of your topic and simply wish to discuss it with fellow students or ask for

advice. In other words, this is the forum that is meant to provide some online semblance of the group discussion that you would get in a seated graduate seminar. So just about any course-related discussion is invited.

### ASSIGNMENT VALUES

Readings Review #1	7 pts
Readings Review #2	7 pts
Research Journal Entry #1	4 pts
Research Journal Entry #2	4 pts
Peer-review Critique	8 pts
Final Paper	170 pts (85% of final grade)

### GRADE SCALE

HST 730 will utilize the plus/minus system of grading sanctioned by Missouri State University. The grade scale will be as follows:

93-100	A	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	60-66	D
87-89	B+	59 & below	F
83-86	B		
80-82	B-		
77-79	C+		
73-76	C		
70-72	C-		